

**In the claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 39 as follows. For convenience, all claims pending upon entry of this amendment are presented below. (A version with markings showing changes made to amended claims is presented in Appendix A):

1. (Amended) A method for protecting a mature T cell from cell death, comprising contacting the T cell *ex vivo* with at least two agents selected from the group consisting of an anti-CD28 antibody, a sub-mitogenic amount of an anti-CD3 antibody, an anti-CD2 antibody, a CD28 ligand, interleukin-2 (IL-2), ionomycin, A23187, phorbol-12, 13-dibutyrate, a lectin and a superantigen, wherein the agent increases BCL-X<sub>L</sub> protein level in the T cell such that the T cell is protected from cell death.
32. The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-CD3 antibody is OKT3.
33. The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-CD2 antibody is selected from the group consisting of T11.1, T11.2 and T11.3.
34. The method of claim 1, wherein said CD28 ligand is selected from the group consisting of a B7-1 molecule, fragments thereof or modifications thereof and a B7-2 molecule, fragments thereof or modifications thereof.
35. The method of claim 1, wherein said lectin is selected from the group consisting of phytohemagglutinin (PHA), concanavalin (ConA) and pokeweed antigen (PWA).
36. The method of claim 1, wherein said superantigen is selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxins A, B, C, D and E.
37. The method of claim 1, wherein said T cell is infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

38. The method of claim 1, wherein said T cell is a mammalian T cell.

39. (Amended) A method for protecting a mature T cell from cell death in a subject by increasing the level of BCL-X<sub>L</sub> protein in said T cell, comprising obtaining said T cell from said subject, contacting said T cell *ex vivo* with at least two agents selected from the group consisting of an anti-CD28 antibody, a sub-mitogenic amount of an anti-CD3 antibody, an anti-CD2 antibody, a CD28 ligand, interleukin-2 (IL-2), ionomycin, A23187, phorbol-12, 13-dibutyrate, a lectin and a superantigen, and reintroducing said T cell into said subject, such that T cell death is inhibited in said T cell of said subject.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said anti-CD3 antibody is OKT3.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein said anti-CD2 antibody is selected from the group consisting of T11.1, Tb11.2 and T11.3.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein said CD28 ligand is selected from the group consisting of a B7-1 molecule, fragments thereof or modifications thereof and a B7-2 molecule, fragments thereof or modifications thereof.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein said lectin is selected from the group consisting of phytohemagglutinin (PHA), concanavalin (ConA) and pokeweed antigen (PWA).

44. The method of claim 39, wherein said superantigen is selected from the group consisting of staphylococcal enterotoxins A, B, C, D and E.

45. The method of claim 39, wherein said T cell is infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

46. The method of claim 39, wherein said subject is a human.